

## **Riverwalk Subcommittee Meeting Monday, August 24, 2015, 8:30 A.M.**

A meeting of the Riverwalk Subcommittee was held on Monday, August 24, 2015 at the Patrick Beaver Library.

**Members Present:** Alan Barnhardt, Mike Bell, Patricia Bowman, Charlie Dixon, Allison Holtzman, Norm Meres, Hani Nassar, Shauna O'Brien, Dean Proctor, and Stacey Rash

**Members Absent:** Jerisha Farrer, Andrew Howard, Adelia Parrado-Ortiz, and Vernon Tarlton

**Others Present:** Freese and Nichols Staff Members, City Staff Members, and various members of the community

Subcommittee Chair Charlie Dixon opened the meeting at 8:32 A.M. He turned the floor over to Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt who gave a brief update on the TIGER grant status. She explained that the application is in Washington D.C. and is being evaluated by the Department of Transportation. She shared that Bond Commission members and community members had sent letters to their legislators and the DOT supporting Hickory's effort to be awarded the funding. The City also received a letter of support from Norfolk Southern, which is very helpful considering their necessary involvement in the Citywalk project. She went on to explain that they are constantly looking for new grants and funding opportunities in addition to the TIGER grant.

Mr. Chuck Hansen, Director of Public Services, then discussed his meeting with Norfolk Southern. Mr. Hansen and Mr. Charles Archer, of Freese and Nichols, traveled to Atlanta, GA and met with Norfolk Southern's Scott Overby. They were able to get an idea of what will be necessary for Norfolk Southern to approve the Citywalk project. Once the plans are submitted, they will have to go through various branches for approval. They review the plans on their own time and will probably need to be pushed to hasten the process. Mr. Hansen also noted that the support lettered offered by Norfolk Southern carries a lot of weight, especially considering that Norfolk Southern competes for TIGER Grant funds as well.

Mr. Mike Wayts, with Freese and Nichols, gave an update the Riverwalk project. He shared that the estimated cost based on the conceptual design was \$12.5 million. He explained that they had met with Duke Energy in regard to regulations affecting the Riverwalk. He noted firstly that Duke liked the project and was positive about it. Once the full design is complete, it will be necessary to get a FERC license, which requires a list of agencies to approve the design. Duke will sign off on the project after the other agencies do and will then submit the plans for the FERC license.

He went on to discuss their meeting with DENR as well. He explained that the shoreline along the river consists of two zones. Zone one (30 ft.) is considered a buffer zone and clearing is not allowed, although there is an exception for a 10 ft. wide trail. Zone 2 (20 ft.) can be cleared but

can have no impervious objects. He discussed the difficulty of contractors bringing in their equipment to work since the terrain is steep and rocky. Possible options could be to construct from a barge or use a precast boardwalk.

Discussion ensued regarding possible types of construction to best suit the regulations and terrain obstacles.

Mr. Wayts went on to give brief updates on the Citywalk and Streetscapes projects. He shared that FNI is currently looking closely at Land Design's cost estimate for the Citywalk project (\$27.5 million) and is working off of that to develop their own cost estimate.

Ms. Surratt interjected that the City has been awarded \$800K for Citywalk from a Metropolitan Planning Organization grant.

Mr. Wayts also noted that the vision for Streetscapes and Gateways is being developed and then a cost estimate would be forthcoming.

Jessica Martin-Lane discussed supplemental funding with the subcommittee. She gave everyone sticky notes and asked them to form into 3 small groups. She then asked them to take a few minutes and discuss ideas for additional funding. After the groups met for 15 minutes, they took turns going around the room and sharing their ideas for possible funding sources.

Mick Berry added that the City would work on organizing fundraising efforts and possibly bring multiple groups together that would mutually benefit from the projects.

Ms. Surratt discussed possible dates for upcoming meetings. The next full Bond Commission meeting will likely be scheduled for October. She also noted some opportunities for Bond Commission members to share updates with the community at the Farmers' Market, Oktoberfest, and the symphony.

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 A.M.

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Charles Dixon, Chair  
Riverwalk Subcommittee

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Sarah Prencipe, Deputy City Clerk  
City of Hickory